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Attorney Docket No.:  
GARR-0084 (103216.00252)

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Yawei Ni, et al.

Serial No.: 10/059,627

Filed: January 29, 2002

For: **COMBINATION OF A GROWTH FACTOR AND A PROTEASE ENZYME**

Group No.: 1654

Examiner: Michael V. Meller

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING: I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 21, 2004.

M. Alford  
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(Signature of the person signing the certificate)

**RESPONSE**

Responsive to the Office Action dated November 4, 2003, and having a shortened statutory period for response expiring February 4, 2004, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this Application in view of the following remarks.

Pending in this application are Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 13 – 15, 17, and 23 – 25.

**I. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 13 – 15, 17, and 23 – 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over European Patent No. 307847 (“EP 307847”), U.S. Patent No. 4,996,050